



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave
National Monument

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Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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Jewel Cave Gears Up for Special Junior Ranger Days


Custer - Jewel Cave National Monument is excited to announce the summer dates for its annual Special Junior Ranger Days. The Monument is offering four programs for young park enthusiasts, ages 5 – 12. Each program provides participants with a hands-on educational activity that complements one of the significant resources within the Monument's boundaries.

Each program date is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and will be offered on the following Saturdays. All participants are required to have a parent or adult guardian on site at all times. Each program will begin at the front patio of the visitor center. Reservations are not required; however, interested participants are encouraged to call the visitor center for additional details and to ensure that adequate program supplies are available.

June 16:	How Do You Map a Cave?
July 14:	Making Stalactites above Ground
August 11:	Batalogy
September 8:	Explore the Ponderosa Pine Forest

Bradley Block, Chief of Interpretation, states, "The National Park Service has a vision to enhance youth stewardship through an assortment of hands-on learning experiences. By getting kids active in the outdoors, they learn to appreciate their natural surroundings. We hope that by providing these special weekend events, our local communities will become even more aware of Jewel Cave and its significance." Youth participants will receive a 2012 Junior Ranger Badge.

In addition to these special programs, Jewel Cave National Monument offers the opportunity for youngsters to become Junior Park Rangers or Pee Wee Rangers throughout the year. Children ages five to twelve qualify for the ever-popular Junior Ranger activity booklet. Kids ages three to four are offered the Pee Wee Ranger booklet. Both booklets can be obtained from a Park Ranger at the visitor center.



Jewel Cave National Monument is open throughout the summer season, seven days a week. The visitor center is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Four different cave tours are available: Scenic Tour, Discovery Tour, Historic Lantern Tour, and Wild Caving Tour. The first cave tour departs at 9:20 a.m., and the last tour enters the cave at 6:05 p.m. Reservations are strongly recommended during the summer months, as tour times fill on a daily basis. Reservations can be made within seven days of the planned arrival date by calling the phone sales office at (605) 673-8300 – Option 1.

For youth that do not have the opportunity to visit the Monument, the National Park Service offers a WebRanger Program. Participants start their online journey by visiting www.nps.gov/webrangers and setting up a ranger station. Kids are then encouraged to visit sites online and take a digital vacation across the country. Help a baby sea turtle reach the sea, be a spy, drive a dog sled, or experience the life and death struggle of a puma; successful participants learn even more about the National Park System, as well as earn a WebRangers patch. This past spring, the National Park Service registered its 200,000 WebRanger.

For more information about the National Park Service, visit www.nps.gov. For specific information related to Jewel Cave National Monument, contact the visitor center at (605) 673-8300 – Option 2 or visit online at www.nps.gov/jeca.

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About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 395 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.